CA2 ALEN
1972P06
c.2

[Position paper #6]

SP549/72
Alberta Provincial Library

ALBERTA LEGISLATURE LIBRARY
3 3398 00418 7307

POSITION PAPER
No. 6
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
FOR
LAKE MANAGEMENT

Alberta. Dept. of the Environment

POSITION PAPER ON FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR LAKE MANAGEMENT PROJECTS WHICH ENHANCE RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

In recent years numerous private citizens and local groups and authorities have requested financial assistance from government for implementing water management projects to enhance recreational opportunities on lakes within the province. Such projects have typically involved lake stabilization structures or provisions for additional water supplies. While assistance has been made available on occasion, no clear, consistent policy has yet been articulated.

The Government of the Province of Alberta, recognizing the need for an equitable, practical, and easily applied policy on financial assistance for such projects, recently undertook an assessment of this problem. The results of this assessment are contained in the attached report entitled "Lake Classification". The Government also acknowledges some urgency in establishing such a policy, since a delay in providing funds for desirable projects may result in a further decline of the natural amenities of some existing and potential recreation lakes, and which could lead to costly rehabilitation at a later date.

In response to these expressed needs, the government is prepared to provide financial assistance to lake management projects where there is a clear public benefit. Public benefit will be determined by the amount of publicly owned shoreline land. The degree of government participation in providing financial assistance will vary with the public benefit derived from each project.

Three categories of lakes have been defined under which financial assistance will be provided if certain specified conditions are met:

Category I — If 25% or more of the shoreline land is publicly owned, the water resource management and development costs will be paid 100% by the government.

Category II — If less than 25% of the shoreline lands are publicly owned, government will contribute assistance up to a maximum of 75% of costs, according to a sliding scale on a pro-rata public vs. private land basis. Right-of-way for development will be provided by the local authority or interest group.

Category III — If the shoreline land is 100% privately owned, the Government of the Province of Alberta sees no just cause for expenditure of public funds unless other public benefits can be clearly demonstrated. However, lakes may be reclassified upward into either Category I or II if the requisite amount of land is donated to the crown or purchased by it in the public interest, and may thus qualify for some form of assistance.

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2025 with funding from
Legislative Assembly of Alberta - Alberta Legislature Library

The classification is an indication of eligibility only. Other criteria in the public interest must first be met before a project will qualify under the financial assistance policy. The following conditions shall apply:

1. The need for such a development must be established.

2. It must be established that the development of the lake is in the public interest.

3. Detailed planning and consideration of all aspects of water resource management, including quality, must precede any implementation.

4. The condition which will take precedence over all others is the priority of water management as established by society through its representatives, the Government of the Province of Alberta.

This Government of Alberta policy will be implemented under the jurisdiction of the Department of the Environment Act (Alberta), and the Alberta Water Resources Act and any other Act which is applicable in part or totally.

This policy will be administered by the Water Resources Division of the Alberta Department of the Environment.

October, 1972

Printed by the QUEEN'S PRINTER for the Province of Alberta, Edmonton